

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11 and 15-17 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not specifically disclose the combination of limitations of claim 11: a system for generating an error signal based on an error encountered while processing a received signal which includes an image representative datastream containing data packets, comprising: a forward error detecting and correcting decoder which generates a first error signal; a means for deriving a synchronization signal from the received signal; a transport processor connected via a bus to the forward error detecting and correcting decoder and the means for deriving a synchronization signal so as to receive the first error signal and the synchronization signal, the transport processor generating a second error signal in response to the first error signal and the synchronization signal, wherein the second error signal begins at an earlier time than an associated data packet, and wherein the second error signal ends at a later time than the associated data packet; a transport bus for forwarding to subsequent processing stages the data packets after having been processed by the forward error detecting and correcting decoder and wherein the data packets are forwarded as a series of discrete spaced apart frames; wherein the second error signal is forwarded via the transport bus simultaneously with the data packets associated with the second error signal, wherein the second error signal being adapted to indicate an error in a defective data packet by having a duration that spans the frame of the defective data packet.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-7341. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8am-6pm Flextime.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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